

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-38 were previously pending in the application. Claims 26 and 30 are canceled; claims 25, 27, and 29 are amended; and new claims 39-40 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 27-29, and 31-40 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-24, and 32-38 are allowed. In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchiyama. In paragraph 6, the Examiner objected to claims 26-28 and 30-31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all now-pending claims are allowable over the art of record.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the features of claim 26 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 25 is equivalent to previously presented claim 26 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that claim 25 is allowable. Since claims 27-28 depend from claim 25, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.


Claim 29 has been amended to include the features of claim 30 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 29 is equivalent to previously presented claim 30 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that claim 29 is allowable. Since claim 31 depends from claim 29, it is further submitted that claim 31 is also allowable.

New claims 39 and 40 are equivalent to previously presented claims 28 and 31, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously presented claims 28 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that claims 39 and 40 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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